

Minutes of the Little Compton School Building Committee

November 19, 2009

I. Call to Order: The meeting of the Little Compton School Building Committee was called to order by M. Harrington at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilbur/McMahon School Commons. A quorum was present.

**Members Present: B. Borden, L. Brousseau-Lebreux, H. Devine, B. Gauthier, J. Gibney,
D. Gomez, M. Harrington, D. MacGregor, M. Manning, C. Osborne, R. Racette, BG Shanklin,
M. Shapiro, J. Talbot, M. Rapp, and D. Wordell**

Others Present: Members of the public

Members Absent: T. Allder, T. Arkins, D. Freeman, P. Golembeske (alternate), R. Mushen

II. Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by the Superintendent and seconded by R. Racette, it was voted to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2009. On a motion made by M. Shapiro and seconded by D. MacGregor, it was voted to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2009.

III. Election of Officers: M. Harrington proposed a slate of candidates for consideration. He suggested T. Allder as Chair, D. MacGregor and B. Gauthier as Vice-Chairs, and M. Manning as Secretary, while he offered to serve as back-up Secretary as needed. Discussion followed. On a motion made by M. Harrington and seconded by BG Shanklin, it was voted to approve the slate of officers as presented for one-year terms.

IV. Discussion Items:

a. Discussion of School Committee Charge to Building Committee: The Superintendent distributed the final charge as approved by the School Committee along with a summary he had prepared. The charge and summary are attached.

Questions regarding the intent of the language were raised on several points, with the clarifications as follows: The use of the term “elementary and secondary” is to be considered interchangeable with “K-8”; It is understood that this committee is to consider as part of its charge what happens to the existing structure; For the purposes of authority to make expenditures, the initial appropriation by the school committee is to be considered an appropriation by taxpayers; This committee will be the contracting authority for the project and will be able to retain legal counsel; ‘Seek RIDE reimbursement’ was included at the request of the state, and the Superintendent stated that is the responsibility of this committee to seek RIDE funding along with any

other available sources. He said clarification of this can be asked of Mr. DaSilva at the next meeting.

There was a discussion of the current status of the relationship with JCJ. The Superintendent reported that JCJ has requested a discussion on this. He said confirmed that the school has already met the financial obligations of the contract; however, he believes JCJ is required to take us through the entire RIDE approval procedure and a successful town approval effort.

A member of the audience expressed concern over the timeframe for procuring architectural renderings of what the school is going to look like, where it will be located, its impact to the town, etc. and whether this information will be available to voters before the bond referendum. Discussion followed. The Superintendent and several committee members responded that while more detailed information and plans will be developed as part of Stage II, RIDE regulations call for, and funding permits, only a schematic proof of concept before the town has approved a bond. Money for architectural plans would be part of the bond. While this process may seem backward -- as it is hard not to know and be comfortable with the details of an end product in order to vote on it -- it is also hard for the town to expend funds on architectural plans which could amount to millions of dollars without even having approval for the project. It was suggested that we revisit the process that had led to the new Public Safety Complex. If we feel it is necessary to show a rendering of a possibility

we can do that, but it is not required by RIDE. There was a concern as to whether we would be limiting our choice of an architect if the building was already mostly-designed by the time it went out to bid.

On a motion made by D. MacGregor and seconded by D. Gomez, it was voted to accept the charge.

A member of the audience then asked, for the record, whether this committee has the authority to decide to do just renovation only. M. Rapp responded that “new construction” also typically includes renovation if it goes beyond 50% the assessed value of the structure or what it would cost to replace it. B Gauthier added that RIDE will participate in renovation but it has to satisfy the 50-year lifespan. A member of the audience interjected that he understood the cost of refurbishment was based on a 20 year analysis. M Harrington responded that this will be discussed as part of Stage II.

b. Meeting with State Building Official: The Superintendent noted that the State Building Officials were unable to attend and as such, this discussion item would be postponed until the next meeting.

V. Next Steps: The Superintendent distributed a summary of the upcoming Stage II application process and timeline for consideration of the committee before the next meeting. This summary is attached.

The Superintendent also distributed a list of subcommittees and

suggested composition recommended by G. Smolley for consideration of the committee before the next meeting. This list is attached.

M. Manning expressed concern over the delay in establishing subcommittees as it relates to the timeliness of potential funding opportunities, such as upcoming RI renewable energy grants.

B. Borden suggested that a workshop on committees before the next meeting would be helpful. On a motion made by M. Shapiro and seconded by D. MacGregor, it was voted to hold a workshop on December 2nd to discuss proposed subcommittees with an open session to follow. The Superintendent would like G. Smolley to attend if available.

There were questions from committee members as to the protocol for e-mail communications. It was requested that the Attorney General's office or the Town Solicitor be invited to inform the committee on the open meetings law at the next meeting.

VI. Proposed future meetings: The next meeting, at which the State Building Official(s) will be present, was set for December 15, 2009.

VII. Adjourn: On a motion by B. Borden and seconded by M. Harrington, it was voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by M. Manning, Secretary

Appendix A: Building Committee Charge

Appendix B: Superintendent's Summary of Charge

Appendix C: Proposed Subcommittees

Appendix D: Superintendent's Summary of Stage II Application